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PROPOSAL ARGUMENT

We Should Reverse the Drug Prohibition Policy

It took a very short period of time after the beginning of a new period of state war on drugs to provoke a series of critical approaches, discussing the negative aftermath of the implemented policy. The drug prohibition policy appeared to be in fact violating human rights and freedoms, criminalizing the society and law enforcement authorities that turned to decrease social reforms and the level of public awareness and development of society. In this frame, the previous experience with prior alcohol and tobacco prohibition plated against the image of the policy. But, despite all these fact, drug prohibition still functions and therefor leads to a wide range of social problems, especially in big industrial centers of many states. The ineffectiveness of the policy is now apparent and there exists a real need in change. The perspective alternative is in the policy of drug regulation, or drug legalization. This policy is now getting more and more support as the experience of other countries where the policy of drug legalization is used show better index on the level of criminalization, gang functioning and number of drug abused people. The sphere of drug prohibition is very topical and this question touches everybody, as the problem harms the whole system.

The war on drugs in the United States has a long story. We may say that it all began from Richard Nixon war on drugs. The policy of prohibition on production, transportation, distribution and possession of drugs failed as anyone who wanted to get illegal substances could buy them almost everywhere. This illegal business sphere enlarged to a widely distributed network giving billions of dollars effort every year. This global industry enriches the criminal sector and led to the criminalization of society. This also influenced state government and law enforcement authorities that got involved in the corruption and bribery and became a tool of the real headers of the business, but not a threat. On the other hand, the harm caused by drug abuse affected more and more people and led to the destruction of the society. No real protection exists to help weak drug abused people and the great need of the system reform became obvious. And the problem increased as the time passed, as today we can see that government puts more and more financial resources in drug law enforcement. But, predictably, this leads to higher development of the drug market and the weakness of the society increases. The second problem is the division of resources lacks proportionality and health and social sector that sums up to zero support of the old and new abused and the whole social situation. Although the idea of government control of the whole system was quite good at the beginning, in the end it resulted to the illegal drug trade, black market development and total criminalization. Studying the results, we can see that the policy is ineffective and it needs to be reformed. The opposite drug legalization policy is being criticized by the opposing side that such drugs as cocaine and marijuana would be as widespread as tobacco and alcohol. But the supporters of legalization policy are also against such a situation. The truth is that our government has to take real control and impact in the sphere of drug trade, and to do this the authorities have to put down the key enemy: illegal drug production and distribution business. Nowadays black market has become so strong and influential that it is extremely hard to destroy the system.

The key economic tool that government has is reforming the market, making it legalized and exercise tight control of the whole system. The second step to take is to reform drug law enforcement authorities to reduce the criminalization within the state representatives. This will lead to the improvement of the situation in the society, the economic growth and the decrease of the number of abused people.

Today global drug production business increase every year, the big part of the whole number refers to our region, plus the neighboring Columbia and Mexico. Today the number are just frightening: the production of increased from 100 tons in 1980 to 9000 tons in 2007, and the production of cocaine – from 600 tons in 1990 to 1000 tons in 2007. How we can mention that? Every day we find new photos of drug abused celebrities, the number of whom arises and the age – falls down. The real situation becomes more and more dangerous. At the beginning of the century, the United States already took the position of the most drug affected country. This fact came together with frightening statistical reports on the rising number of crimes and murders. The first thing the government has to do is to elaborate a fundamental changing reform to the drug prohibition policy. The project has to include all sides of the problem, such as black market, medical and social treatment of drug abused people, the reform within law enforcement authorities and warfare against the illegal drug production business. This reform has to gain proper attention and to be shown to the society. The project has to be implemented in several experimental regions to see the real progress and only after scientific researches that would show positive changes the project might be implemented in other states. The system has to combine the best features of different drug policies, taking the best for our country from drug prohibition. Regulation and legalization to lead to policy that will get a maximum result in our country. The reform has to sponsor by government. The sum of money has to be adequate to the one distributed on the previous drug prohibition policy. After the

first period of severe reconstruction, the part of material resources should be given to the development of medical sector and social help. This would help to escape in future the situations with severe weakness of drug abuse and help people to start a new life without this awful disease.

This proposal for sure will meet a lot of critical views, as the idea of the fundamental reconstruction within the drug prohibition policy sounds good but we never know how it might act in practice. But looking back on the history of prohibition in the United States we have to agree that the basis of the policy was wrong as the prohibition has never really reached its targets. Today the drug problem is one of the most important and of a universal character. It touches all spheres of our life, so if we have to fight against this vicious system if we do not want to live in the world of total corruption where the leading role plays black market of illegal drugs production and distribution. The law enforcement authorities cannot reduce the problem themselves as they are also involved in the corruption process and they represent no real threat to the illegal drug business. The reform within the system will help to improve the economic and political system, to reduce crimes and give proper treatment to the drug abused people. The real importance of the reform can be easily seen every day in the life of our citizens, and if the reconstruction will be implemented in the program of fundamental reforms, the whole society will benefit from the idea, the whole society's' successful future means the successful future for each of us.